refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 7016 on September 13, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry on the basis of the FIR filed against some persons concerning St. Kitts Bank Accounts has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the enquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a). No Sir,

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) it is not possible to indicate as time frame for the completion of investigations.

[*English*]

Strike by RRB's Employees

1564 SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Regional Rural Banks went on nationwide strike on August 20, 1991 and the work of loan distribution is held-up at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken on the long standing demands of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that a section of the RRB employees had gone on strike on 20-08-1991. NABARD has nor received any report regarding holding up of loan distribution work.

(b) As per the notice of strike the All India Gramin Bank Workers' Organisation (AIGBWO) have, inter-alia, demanded formation of Rural Bank of India, rectification of alleged anomalies in fixation of pay in sponsor bank pay scales, re-categorisation of branches, regularisation of messengers, payment of arrears in cash, grant of compensatory allowance for serving in rural areas, etc.

(c). There is no proposal to establish a Rural Bank of India. The National Industrial Tribunal setup to decide the pay, allowance and other benefits payable to the employees of the Regional Rural Banks, recommended grant of sponsor bank pay scales but the equation of posts and the fitment formula was left to be decided by Govt. Government had accordingly appointed an Equation Committee to equate the posts in RRB's with those of the sponsor banks. The award of the Tribunal and the recommendations of the Equation Committee have been accepted in toto. The Tribunal has recommended that messengers be given regular pay scales from the date they have been employed on regular basis. Accordingly it has been left to the chairman of

Financial Difficulties to Forces

1565. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report captioned "The Armed Forces Chinks in the Armour" appearing in 'India Today', November 15, 1991.

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in view of the changed economic situation and growing tensions in the border areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The resource constraint has necessitated steps for security economy, resource optimisation, rationalisation and re-prioritisation of programmes/activities of the Armed Forces.

Our Forces continue to be geared to meet any threats from across the border. Government continuously monitor all developments impinging on the country's security and take appropriate measures to ensure effective defence preparedness.

Irregularities in Cantonment Board, Kanpur

1566. SHRI M.V. CHANDRAHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of OF DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1365 on August 2, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the local audit officers had also pointed out several financial irregularities by the cantonment Board is not accepting higher offers from another party;

(b) whether the Board had obtained necessary permission from the Department of Environment before damaging the park in question; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The Local Audit Officer had inter-alia raised an objection to the acceptance of a bid for Rs.1000/- per month of one Shri Ajay Pandey instead of the offer of Rs.1200/- per month of one Shri Radhey Mohan Sahu in the allotment of a shop on a site bearing Survey No.504, Kanpur Cantonment. Shri Radhey Mohan Sahu did not participate in the auction held on 31.10.81 but made a written offer of Rs.1200/- per month for the same after the auction on 2.11.81. He was asked to deposit six months rent in advance and a sum of Rs.1400/- as security, which he failed to do. The Cantonment Board, Kanpur, thereupon, decided to accept the highest bid of Shri Ajay Pandey, given in the auction. The Government have since approved the conversion 7 Malis quarters for commercial use.

The permission of the Department of Environment is not required as conversion of the site into shops/restaurant is limited to the land on which Malls quarters, covering an area of 1194 Sq.Ft. were located and does not in any way reduce the land under the Mahatma Gandhi Park, which has an area of 5.814 acres.

Recruitment by BSRBs

1567. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given a ruling that interviews will carry only few marks and the selection will be made on the basis of the performance of the written examination;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the Court's observations in the selection of candidates in the Banking Services Examinations;

(c) the time by which the results of the examinations conducted by various BSRBs in 1991 are likely to be declared;